

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Original) A fluid controlling assembly for use in a direct oxidation fuel cell,  
2 which fuel cell has an anode chamber and a cathode chamber, the assembly comprising:  
3 an adjustable component at least a portion of which is disposed within the cathode cham-  
4 ber of the fuel cell, and said component, when adjusted, regulates the rate at which fluids  
5 travel into and out of the cathode chamber of the fuel cell.
- 1 2. - 6. (Cancelled)
- 1 7. (Original) A fluid controlling assembly for use in a direct oxidation fuel cell,  
2 comprising:  
3 (i) a first component that includes an aperture disposed in a cathode chamber  
4 of the direct oxidation fuel cell; and  
5 (ii) a corresponding second component such that placement of the first com-  
6 ponent relative to the second component results in an opening that permits the  
7 flow of fluids therethrough, and when closed restricts the flow of fluids into the  
8 cathode chamber.
- 1 8. (Original) The fluid controlling assembly as defined in claim 7 further compris-  
2 ing said first and second components are generally planar components that include corre-  
3 sponding apertures, which when aligned create openings and said first and second com-  
4 ponents can be adjusted relative to one another to control the rate of fluid flow through  
5 said openings.
- 1 9. (Original) The fluid controlling assembly as defined in claim 8 further compris-  
2 ing said apertures of said first and second components being lined with a gas permeable,  
3 liquid impermeable film that controls the rate of flow of oxygen therethrough to control

4 the cathode reactions, yet restricts the flow of liquid water therethrough such that humid-  
5 ity is maintained within the cathode chamber.

1 10 (Original) The fluid controlling assembly as defined in claim 7 further compris-  
2 ing a control system for variably actuating the position of at least one of said first and sec-  
3 ond components of said fluid controlling assembly.

1 11. – 26. (Cancelled)